V. *Part of a Letter from Mr* Ralph Thoresby, *F. R. S. to Dr* Hans Sloane, *S. R. S. concerning a Leaden Coffin, &c. taken out of a* Roman *Burying-place near* York.

*Leeds, June* 17. 1702.

BEing lately at *York*, I went (as uſually) to Mr *Montague Gyles's*, to enquire if his Servants had retrieved any thing curious in the *Roman* Burying-place; where, in digging Clay for Bricks, they frequently find Urns, *&c.* Some of which are accounted for in former Tranſactions. They very lately found there a remarkable Lead Coffin, which by the Circumſtances ſeems to have been for a Perſon of Quality; 'twas 9 foot deep in the ground, whereof 6 were Clay, and 3 a black Earth; the Lead Coffin, which was about 7 foot long, was incloſed in a prodigious ſtrong one, made of Oak Planks, about 2 inches and a half thick, which beſides the Rivettings were tack'd together with Brags, or great Iron Nails, ſome of which I pull'd out of the Planks, and have by me; they are 4 inches long, the heads not Die-wiſe, as the large Nails now are, but perfectly flat, and an inch broad: I have one ſomewhat different, the Nail itſelf is half an inch broad, and thin, ſomewhat in the form of a Wedge, and the Head not round, as the others, but ſomewhat like the modern Draw-nails; but theſe old ones are generally ſquare, the 4 ſides of an equal breadth: Many of them are almoſt conſum'd with the ruſt, and the outſides of the Planks, but the heart of the Oak is firm, and the Lead very freſh and pliable; whereas one found about a year ago (whereof I have alſo a ſample) is brittle, and almoſt

moſt wholly conſumed, having no Planks to guard it: But what I was moſt ſurprized at, was, that the Bones ſhould be entire, tho probably interr'd 1500 years ago; for 'tis above ſo many Centuries ſince their Cuſtom of Burning gave place to that more natural of Burying their Dead; which, according to Monſieur *Muret*, was re-introduced by the *Antonines*, who, being Philoſophers and Virtuous Princes, could no longer endure that that kind of Cruelty ſhould be exerciſed upon Humane Bodies. I have a Thigh-bone (which is wonderful light) and the lower Jaw, which was furniſhed with all the Teeth, but ſome of them are ſince ſtoln out; but tho the Bones are light, the double Coffins were ſo heavy, that they were forced to drag them out of their old Dormitory with a Team of Horſes.

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## VI. *Experiments on the Production and Propagation of Light from the* Phoſphorus *in* Vacuo, *made before the Royal Society, by Mr.* Fra. Hauksbee.

### *Experiment* I.

IN purſuance to the Commands of this Honourable Society, Having a dark Room provided, the firſt Experiment was by drawing ſome Lines on a piece of blue Paper with the *Phoſphorus*, which became immediately Luminous in the open Air, having a continual undulating Motion. This being plac'd under a Receiver, after ſome few Exſuctions, the Undulation ceas'd, but the Luminous Quality appeared to be in a great meaſure increas'd; the Receiver being farther exhauſted, it became manifeſtly brighter; and ſo continu'd, till on the Admiſſion of Air (which was gradually done) the Light ſenſibly diminiſhing all the while. But upon the Repetition of the Experiment, it was the Opinion of thoſe Gentlemen then preſent, that it did not appear altogether ſo briſk or ſo vivid as at firſt. To